



ALDEN H. EMERY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

REPUBLIC 7-5300

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON 6, D.C.
1155 SIXTEENTH ST., N.W.

December 18, 1953

CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Michael Heidelberger
Department of Practice of Medicine
Columbia University
630 West 168th Street
New York 32, New York

Dear Doctor Heidelberger:

Receipt is acknowledged of your note of November 22. The information given you in Paris concerning the rejection by the Admissions Committee of the application of Mme. Irene Joliot-Curie for membership in the ACS is correct. Naturally, we are sorry that this is "creating a most unfavorable impression in France."

When this application was received, the Admissions Committee consulted with counsel who advised the Committee that he considered Madame Joliot-Curie ineligible for membership. Recently I reopened this question with Elisha Hanson and he has written me as follows in regard thereto:

When this matter first came up, I was asked to make an inquiry for the benefit of the Membership Committee and, under date of June 26, I reported to you that Mme. Joliot-Curie's record "as an avowed Communist is well known, so well known in fact that in 1951 she was dropped as a member of the French Atomic Energy Commission." In the same communication, I furnished you with additional data concerning this woman's activities and pointed out that at the present time she is ineligible for admission to this country even on a visitor's visa.

I further pointed out that it is not the obligation of the American Chemical Society to accept all applicants for membership "who are professionally qualified where sound reasons exist for their rejection because of their activities in other fields."

I anticipated that if Mme. Joliot-Curie's application were rejected the Society undoubtedly would receive complaints from some of its members at home as well as abroad. Such were to be expected and now they have been received. I desire to point out in comment thereon, however, that it is my considered opinion that Mme. Joliot-Curie does not qualify for membership in the American Chemical Society.

Section 2 of the Charter of the Society sets forth the objectives of the Society. One of these objectives is "fostering

public welfare." Another is "the development of our country's industries." A third is "adding to the material prosperity and happiness of our people."

The qualifications for membership are precisely set forth in Article IV of the Constitution of the Society. Section 1(a) of Article IV provides that "The membership of the Society shall consist of individuals interested in the objects of the Society."

Mme. Joliot-Curie, being an avowed working Communist who has been dropped by her own Government from a high Government position, definitely cannot qualify for membership in the American Chemical Society because an avowed Communist cannot have a sincere interest in fostering public welfare in the United States, developing the industries of the United States or adding to the material prosperity and happiness of the people of the United States.

In fact, under the precise provisions of Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution of the Society, any Communist is subject to expulsion from membership in the Society if proceedings for expulsion are started in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 of Bylaw I.

The foregoing information currently is not a public document although I have presented it to a few individuals like yourself who have asked about this matter. If you use it, I am sure it will be because you believe it will benefit the ACS, but naturally I should prefer that it not be distributed and certainly it is not for publication.

Cordially yours,



Alden H. Emery
Executive Secretary

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